

Hague expels Soviet diplomat

THE HAGUE (R) — The Netherlands has expelled a Soviet diplomat after accusing him of spying, government sources said Friday. Alexander Konoval, a third secretary at the Soviet embassy in the Hague, was discovered spying by the Dutch secret service early this month and ordered to leave the country by Feb. 13, the sources added. According to Dutch newspaper reports he left on that date. The government did not announce the expulsion in order to avoid damaging relations with the Soviet Union and to try to prevent any retaliation against Dutch diplomats, they said. The Foreign Ministry confirmed a Soviet diplomat had been expelled but refused to give any other details. No Soviet spokesman was immediately available for comment.

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Tatatabai refused diplomatic immunity

DUESSELDORF, West Germany (R) — A West German court overruled the Foreign Ministry's decision to grant diplomatic immunity to former Iranian Deputy Prime Minister Saded Tabatabai, on trial for alleged drug smuggling. Mr. Tabatabai, 39, delayed his marriage to Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, was detained at Dusseldorf airport on Jan. 8 after customs officials found 1.6 kilograms of raw opium in his luggage. Three weeks later, Iran said he had been on a secret mission as a special ambassador, a claim belatedly endorsed by the Bonn Foreign Ministry, which at first denied any knowledge of his presence.

Eritrean rebels kill Ethiopian troops

BAHRAIN (R) — Eritrean separatist guerrillas have killed 200 Ethiopian soldiers and captured 26 in fierce battles in western Eritrea during the past week, a guerrilla spokesman said Friday. Osman Abu Bakr, spokesman for the Eritrean Liberation Front (ELF-PLF), told the Qatari News Agency that Ethiopia had sent 20,000 soldiers into the week-long battles west of the city of Barentu in the mountains of Eritrea. He said Ethiopian troops were using Soviet-made gunships and MiG-21s and 22s in bombing guerrilla strongholds in the area. The Ethiopian government was still sending reinforcements to the battle zone backed by sophisticated Soviet-made weapons. Mr. Abu Bakr said. Earlier this week, Somali Radio quoted a spokesman of another guerrilla group as saying the separatist commandos killed 150 government troops during fighting in the Red Sea province. Mr. Abu Bakr said more than 150,000 Eritrean guerrillas have been killed and half a million people have taken refuge in neighbouring Sudan since the guerrilla war started 20 years ago.

3 priests charged with murder

BACOLOD, Philippines (R) — Three Roman Catholic priests were charged Friday with the murder of a town mayor who was shot dead in the Philippines a year ago. The prosecutor's office said charges filed by the provincial military commander alleged that Australian Father Brian Gore and Irishman Father Niall O'Brien plotted the killing in an ambush led by Filipino priest Father Vicente Dangan. Kabangkalan Mayor Pablo Zola and four companions were shot last March 10, a few months after the bodies of 10 religious workers were discovered on his sugar farm in Negros Occidental province, 560 kilometres south-east of Manila.

Piranha smuggler detained in Manila

MANILA (R) — Airport customs officers Friday caught 100 man-eating piranha fish which a passenger tried to bring through in a plastic bag with his luggage on a flight to the Philippines from Taipei. A customs spokesman said the piranhas — babies measuring about two inches — were in the water-filled bag with around 400 other exotic fish. He said Manila businessman Victor Chan faced charges under a law banning the importation and possession of live piranhas, South American fish that can devour an animal within minutes. Tropical fish collectors will pay up to 1,000 pesos (\$105) for a piranha in the Philippines.

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Reagan's reference to Palestinian homeland conforms to policy, State Department says

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan's call for "something in the nature of a homeland" for the Palestinians did not deviate from United States policy, the State Department has said.

Mr. Reagan's remarks to reporters Wednesday made headline news in Israel where any suggestion of a Palestinian state on Israeli borders triggers alarm signals.

But State Department spokesman Alan Romberg Thursday made clear that U.S. policy remains the same: "To advocate Palestinian self-rule in association with Jordan and seek the entry of Jordan into the peace process."

The president's remarks are fully consistent with his previous statements regarding the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people," Mr. Romberg told reporters.

When he met reporters Thursday, Mr. Reagan restated the

administration belief that the Palestinian problem had to be solved.

But he appeared to go further than previously when he said: "We can't go on with these people in not providing something in the nature of a homeland."

But he added, "On the other hand, no one has ever advocated creating a nation."

This was apparently a reaffirmation of his opposition to creating a separate Palestinian state as demanded by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), most recently at the Palestinian National Council meeting which ended this week in Algiers.

It was the second time in two days that Mr. Reagan had apparently broken new ground in U.S. Middle East policy.

In a speech on Tuesday, he urged "all necessary measures" to guarantee the safety of Israel's northern border with Lebanon following withdrawal of Israeli troops.

Officials later said the pledge was not new and Defence Sec-

retary Caspar Weinberger told reporters: "That has been the policy of the United States for years."

Officials have previously held out the possibility of a role for an expanded multinational force in Lebanon following withdrawal of Israeli, Syrian and Palestinian forces, including several roads vital as supply lines for Israeli forces in Lebanon.

The incident was the third of this kind since the middle of this month when the Lebanese army assumed responsibility for security in the city and its outskirts, including several roads vital as supply lines for Israeli forces in Lebanon.

The first occurred on Feb. 16 hours after the army took control, when three Israeli personnel carriers tried to go through a checkpoint in what Western diplomats described as a calculated move to test the Lebanese response.

Israeli vehicles were turned back at another checkpoint two days later.

The Lebanese army spokesman described Friday's incident as not serious. "Three Israeli jeeps tried to go inside the area of the Lebanese army. That's all—the Lebanese army stopped these people."

Lebanese forces have allowed the Israelis to continue to use a limited number of main roads in "greater Beirut." The spokesman said the checkpoint which the Israelis tried to cross Friday was near one of them.

Lebanese soldiers block Israeli incursion

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese soldiers Friday turned back three Israeli jeeps when they tried to cross a checkpoint into an area of suburban Beirut controlled by the Lebanese army, an army spokesman said.

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They also looked at an Israeli draft text on several points and Mr. Habib had suggested several compromise phrasings on which he hoped all sides might agree, the sources said.

Mr. Habib was expected to leave for Israel Saturday or Sunday for similar detailed discussions there in advance of the next full session of talks set for Tuesday among U.S., Lebanese and Israeli at Khalde, south of Beirut, the sources said.

They declined to give details of the points being discussed. But they said the diplomats were concentrating on topics on which Lebanon and Israel were closest on one of them.

S. Arabian ban hurts exports from Lebanon

BEIRUT (R) — Saudi Arabia has banned many imports from Lebanon for fear that some of the goods are really coming from Israel. Beirut's Chamber of Commerce said in a statement published Friday.

"The decision taken by the Saudi authorities to ban the import of certain goods from Lebanon... has caused concern in economic circles because of its negative effects on the Lebanese economy," the statement said.

Goods from Israel or imported through Israel have been flooding into Lebanon since last November when the Israeli authorities determined to establish what they termed "normal relations" opened the border to Lebanese business.

The Chamber of Commerce said its information suggested that the aim of the Saudi ban was to prevent goods from "occupied territories," meaning Israel and the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, entering Saudi Arabia.

The Saudi Arabian embassy in Beirut said it had no information about the ban.

TOKYO rejects U.S. offer to sell AWACS

TOKYO (R) — The Japanese government Friday turned down a suggestion by the U.S. Congress that it should buy long-range American radar and fighter control aircraft in a bid to trim U.S. defence spending. The government said in reply to a question in parliament that it had no intention of buying the AWACS (Airborne Warning And Control System), which is based on a Boeing 707 airframe. Earlier this month the U.S. Congress budget office urged the Reagan administration to sell six AWACS to Japan.

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The Saudi Arabian embassy in Beirut said it had no information about the ban.

BONN accuses Moscow of election interference

BONN (R) — Just nine days before West Germany's general election, Chancellor Helmut Kohl's centre-right government Friday accused the Soviet Union of gross interference in the campaign.

In an unusually angry statement, government spokesman Jürgen Sudhoff told reporters: "The government regards with concern the massive and hitherto unprecedented manner in which the Soviet Union is interfering in the election campaign and internal politics of the Federal Republic of Germany."

He accused Moscow of making a blatant attempt to discredit the West's nuclear disarmament policy among West Europeans and of crude attempts to divide Europe from the United States.

The statement, which officials said would not be followed by any formal complaint through diplomatic channels, was widely seen as a gambit in what some West German commentators have dubbed the "superpower election."

MOSCOW has made little secret of its preference for Mr. Kohl's Social Democratic (SPD) challenger, Hans-Jochen Vogel. It sees him as less likely to start deploying new U.S. medium-range nuclear missiles later this year, in line with NATO plans, if U.S.-

Mr. Kohl were re-elected.

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FEATURES

Cuban workers prefer goods to cash

By Colin McSevney
Reuters

HAVANA — A successful bid for the skills of the Cuban repair or maintenance worker may depend more on what exotic items are offered in barter than how many pesos one is prepared to pay.

Though officially less well off than his white-collar compatriots, the Cuban manual worker sometimes appears to lead in the rarely fashion stakes wearing imported jeans and smoking American cigarettes.

The reason lies in the inefficiency of Cuba's state-run service industries and the lack of choice in consumer goods available to the country's 10 million inhabitants.

Demands for repairs to cars, electrical goods or houses far outstrip supply, allowing tradesmen

to name their own price for working in their spare time.

And their price is invariably goods to supplement the staple rations, or luxury items normally unavailable here.

Most basic goods have been rationed by the Communist government for more than 20 years. Though generally fair, it is austere. For example, the average man is allowed only one or two pairs of trousers and shoes a year, depending on his job.

National austerity is such that the best of Cuba's world-famous tobacco is kept mainly for export and everybody over 15 years of age is entitled to a monthly ration of only four packs of cigarettes.

These limits on quantity and quality of goods have led to a widespread system of clandestine barter which, though illegal, is generally ignored by the authorities.

"Of course we know it goes on. But provided it doesn't turn into a big-time racket we are not too worried," one Cuban official told Reuters.

A paint respray for a car could cost the long-waiting customer as much as 500 pesos (\$500) but it is a different story if three or four pairs of American jeans and a few T-shirts can be offered.

One Cuban woman said she had the equivalent of a small apartment painted in exchange for a good-quality fan which cost around \$90 in the United States.

Many skilled workers cultivate contacts with foreign residents as they know they have access to special diplomatic stores which sell everything from coffee to refrigerators at only slightly above U.S. prices.

Cuban seamen and locals with generous relatives in the United

States are also a source of American goods which, despite or perhaps because of a 20-year trade embargo, retain a great attraction for the average Cuban.

In the past few years the government has tried to counter the trend by improving its service industries though they are not given priority in a still developing country geared to economic survival.

But these shops, though quite popular with the Cubans, sell goods that are expensive by any standard.

A small tin of Spanish-style sausages costs around 25 pesos (\$30), while a pair of locally-made blue jeans can cost up to 130 pesos (\$150) — more than the monthly wage of many lower-paid workers.

"With prices like those it stands to reason that we prefer goods to cash whenever possible," said one motor mechanic.

Camorra, Red Brigade links worry Italy

By Stuart Harris
Reuters

NAPLES, Italy — A top gangster who sipped champagne in prison helped Italy's security services to free a politician held by Red Brigades urban guerrillas in 1981, according to a Naples magistrate.

The story is told in a 600-page indictment of 151 alleged Camorra (Naples mafia) gangsters which will form the prosecution case at a mass trial later this year.

The document was pieced together over 14 months by investigating magistrate Gennaro Costagliola, and is mostly concerned with murder and mayhem in a war between rival Camorra clans for control of the Naples area underworld.

But there are also 10 pages covering the Camorra's role in the release of Christian Democratic politician Ciro Cirillo from the

Red Brigades.

The case has been described by the Italian media as a state surrender to Camorra gangsters and the Red Brigades.

The murky affair started in standard Red Brigades style when they snatched Mr. Cirillo outside his home near Naples, killing one bodyguard and badly injuring another.

Mr. Cirillo was head of regional town planning in charge of reconstruction after the devastating 1980 earthquake, and he was released unharmed after a undisclosed ransom had been paid to his kidnappers.

A year later the Communist Party daily L'Unità said it had a document proving a government minister visited Camorra boss Raffaele Cutolo in Ascoli Piceno top security prison to ask for his help in freeing Mr. Cirillo.

The document turned out to be

a fake, but it prompted investigations to see if the story had any foundation.

The case took a grisly turn when a neo-fascist criminologist friend of "Don Raffaele", who was thought to be involved in the affair, was found beheaded in Cutolo's Neapolitan "domain".

The case died down, but with the magistrate's indictment it is threatening to erupt again like nearby Mount Vesuvius.

The indictment says Cutolo was visited in prison by two agents of the Internal Security Services known as Sismi, two Camorra gangsters and Giuliano Granata, Christian Democrat mayor of a town near Naples.

The top-level rendezvous took place with the approval of the national authorities, prison director Cosimo Giordano said.

According to his testimony in the indictment, "the ministry not

only authorized such visits, but also ordered that no note of those present would be made in the registers."

Mr. Granata says Christian Democrat politicians tempted Cutolo with the possibility that the police might ease up on organised crime.

But this was not enough for "Don Raffaele" and Mr. Granata were both freed by the Red Brigades in three prisons that "The Christian Democrats are prepared to negotiate on all levels through the intermediary of Cutolo," according to a jailed guerrilla who acted as a messenger.

The kidnap victim was eventually freed by the Red Brigades for a ransom of 1.4 billion lire (\$1 million) donated by builders in the 1980 earthquake area.

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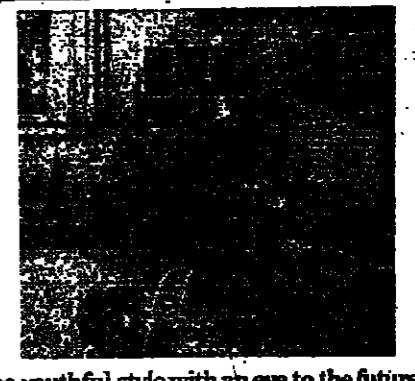
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Shout for help from Japan?

WHEN U.S. President Ronald Reagan earlier this week offered to guarantee Israel's border with Lebanon once Israeli troops withdrew from Lebanese soil, the Begin government declined the offer, although it seemed considerate enough of the Reagan administration's feelings this time by asking the foreign minister, Yitzhak Shamir, to phrase the reply in a diplomatic manner.

A day or two later, when the U.S. president advocated an Arab-Israeli resolution of the Palestinian issue as "the greatest security for Israel", and told a gathering of American journalists that this would require "providing something in the nature of a homeland" for the Palestinians, the Israelis seemed to have lost patience and reverted to their old ways in dealing with their friends in Washington. Moshe Arens, the new Israeli defence minister, lost no time in asserting his predecessor's (Gen. Sharon) position that a Palestinian homeland and state exists in Jordan.

The American offer on Lebanon and President Reagan's reference to a Palestinian homeland may represent a new pattern in American thinking or a shift in emphasis or

both. But is there anything new for the Arabs? Has not the United States always guaranteed Israel's security, and much more? Of course, the Begin government would say "no" to the Reagan offer on the border with Lebanon, for stationing multi-national troops there would prevent Israel itself from threatening and blackmailing Lebanon, and even Syria, when Begin and company deemed it necessary.

As for the Palestinian homeland, let us borrow the words of the president himself when he expressed his "strong personal conviction" that Israel needed to match its peace treaty with Egypt with similar agreements on its eastern frontiers, and said: "What is the stake for Israel? The stake is security. Can they (the Israelis) go on forever living as an armed camp? Their economy's suffering. They have 130 per cent inflation rate. And they're having to maintain a military presence, and that's out of all proportion to their size as a nation..."

Let's now ask ourselves: What is new in all of this for the Arabs? Instead of saying more and more words, cannot the Americans do something? Shout for help from Japan, perhaps?

JORDAN'S ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Reagan stands up to Israeli blackmail

Only two days after U.S. President Reagan's call to Israel to withdraw its forces from Lebanon in return for American guarantees of Israel's security, he has been forced to reiterate his call because the ensuing Israeli rebuttal.

Reagan's recent statements do clarify a number of points of American policy: 1. Time is vital element in the Mideast and the peace process can not wait long indefinitely. 2. Priority is being given to an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, and not the Israeli objective of a normalisation of relations prior to a pullback. 3. An Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon should precede action to solve the Palestinian problem. 4. Israel's security can only be guaranteed by establishing a just and durable peace

in the region. 5. Reference to the maladies of the Israeli economy indicate an indirect warning that American aid to Israel might be cut. 6. Rejection of Israel's intentions to turn the West Bank and Gaza Palestinians into a foreign minority, and a clear reference to the need for a Palestinian homeland.

President Reagan's recent statements are a positive attempt to restore American credibility, and a clear gesture made to indicate that the U.S. will not submit to Israeli blackmail. However, it is still not clear whether the American move will prove effective, for it is obvious that the Israelis will attempt to test the seriousness of the American position in the coming few weeks.

Al Dustour: Reagan's words no substitute for actions

U.S. President Reagan's recent statements are really quite astonishing. He wonders whether Israel can continue living with a "citadel" mentality in the face of changing facts. His reference to the economic conditions prevailing in Israel, and its high rate of inflation - 130 per cent - make us wonder if the U.S., which pays most of the bills which perpetuate Israel's "citadel", has nothing new to contribute to the region except for idle remarks.

Nonetheless, the official Israeli response to President Reagan's statements are much more surprising. The Israeli leaders do not simply allow such remarks to pass unnoticed in return for continued U.S. material support. Instead, they arrogantly say that U.S. pledges to guarantee the security of Is-

rael's northern borders can not be taken seriously, as they are guarantees that need in turn to be guaranteed. As for Reagan's reference to the need for a Palestinian homeland, the Israeli leaders made it clear that they have interpreted the Camp David accords according to their own interests.

Israel would have certainly behaved in a different way if the U.S. preacher had substituted his verbal criticism of Israel for practical steps that materially weaken both the Israeli citadel's physical being as well as the philosophy that it is based upon. It is a U.S. international responsibility to deal with the Israeli monster it has itself created more effectively than through a mere preacher's words.

After the PNC-session in Algiers

Room for manoeuvre

By Alan Philips
Reuter

ALGIERS — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chief Yasser Arafat has won room for manoeuvre to explore peaceful solutions to the Middle East conflict without splitting his movement. But after a nine-day session of PLO parliament-in-exile, PLO hardliners will be watching closely to see if he stays within the bounds they believe they have set on his diplomatic course.

A compromise was adopted last Tuesday by the 384-strong Palestine National Council (PNC) on what PLO strategy should be following the Palestinian commandos' evacuation from Israeli-besieged Beirut last summer. The compromise was hailed as a victory by both supporters of Mr. Arafat's pragmatic course and his militant critics.

Aides of Mr. Arafat, who was unanimously re-elected chairman by the new 14-member PLO executive committee, said he had allayed fears of a split in the PLO between Syrian-backed radicals and his mainstream Fatah movement.

The sides said the final resolutions had not blocked any avenue for Middle East peace that the PLO leadership might wish to pursue. Radicals, however, said that Mr. Arafat's success in uni-

ting the organisation reflected his personal prestige -- unrivalled among Palestinian leaders -- rather than any clear endorsement of his policies.

They stressed that the PNC had reaffirmed the Palestinian goal of an independent state under PLO leadership and its refusal to recognise a Jewish state in Palestine. At the centre of the often heated debates among the PLO leaders were two Middle East peace plans put forward after the PLO's departure from Beirut and dispersal in eight Arab countries.

Brushed aside

The PNC brushed aside President Reagan's call for Palestinian self-rule in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza strip in association with Jordan. Interpreting the wording of the declaration, Mr. Arafat's supporters said it stopped short of rejecting the plan and left the door open to a possible reshaping of the U.S. proposals.

The hardliners saw it as a firm rebuff of what they regard as U.S. attempts to mould the Middle East according to America's strategic interests. In a decision seen as possibly the most significant of the conference, the PNC endorsed a rival Arab League peace plan as a minimum platform for a Middle East settlement. The plan, advo-

cated at an Arab summit in the Moroccan city of Fez, envisages an independent Palestinian state. It has also been widely interpreted as giving Israel a measure of security within its pre-1967 borders -- an implied concession that hardliners attacked.

In difference to the hardliners, the PNC linked its approval with an affirmation of the need for armed struggle and a statement that the plan did not contradict PLO decisions not to recognise Israel.

Israel has rejected both the Reagan and Fez plans. The PNC condemned terrorism -- a move apparently designed to help improve ties between the PLO and Western European states. The decision was passed apparently without comment.

Mr. Arafat's aides believe he has secured a cautious go-ahead to continue his contacts with Jordan on a possible confederation between Jordan and a future Palestinian state.

The text of the PNC decision, while affirming the special relationship between Jordan and the Palestinians, says that any link must be on the basis of two independent states.

On the issue of patching up ties with Damascus, where Mr. Arafat's critics are based, the PNC declared Syria the strategic ally of the PLO.

VIEW FROM AMERICA

An appeal to the dormant volcano

By Franz Schurmann

In the February issue of the Reader's Digest, I saw a kind of article I had never seen before. It was a joint piece written by former presidents Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter calling for recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

The Reader's Digest has the largest circulation of any American magazine. It can be found in every market, airport, public place. I usually read it when I am waiting for my shopping cart to go through the cashier. Even though the content of the Digest is too conservative for my own taste, I feel like an ordinary citizen when reading it. Again, it is read by ordinary people, black, white, and of in-between colours. Many of them probably do not read the Digest's political articles, because they rarely read the political articles in newspapers. But they read the Digest's advice on health and marriage problems.

It is barely read by those who consider themselves intellectuals, and so laughed at. As in many developing countries, there is a big and grow-

ing gap between intellectuals and ordinary citizens in the U.S., a country where in other matters, like wealth, there can be a great deal of egalitarianism.

If the two presidents had addressed their message to American intellectuals the effort would have been wasted. On the other hand, by publishing in the Digest, they will be read by many Americans of what we call Fundamentalist beliefs. Fundamentalism is a word that describes those sects of Protestant Christianity which interpret the Bible literally. They are strong in the U.S. and in recent years have been becoming even stronger.

By large intellectuals in the U.S. tilt towards the left. And while there are leftists who shrilly espouse the cause of Palestinians, by and large they are on the politically insignificant fringes. American intellectuals may not sympathise with Israel as much as they used to, but few show any strong interest in the cause of the Palestinians or Arabs. They may cry out in anger against murderous fascist regimes in Central America, racism in South Africa, and one of their prominent leaders, Jerry Falwell, has a warm friendship with Menachem Begin. This Fundamentalist link to

are silent. In fact, since the rise of OPEC, many Americans intellectuals hold the Arabs guilty of inflicting great economic harm on the U.S.

If the two presidents had addressed their message to American intellectuals the effort would have been wasted. On the other hand, by publishing in the Digest, they will be read by many Americans of what we call Fundamentalist beliefs. Fundamentalism is a word that describes those sects of Protestant Christianity which interpret the Bible literally. They are strong in the U.S. and in recent years have been becoming even stronger.

What has been noteworthy about many Fundamentalist leaders in recent years is that they have taken strong pro-Israel positions. More and more their political position is identical with that of the Begin-Sharon regime. They frequently visit Israel, and one of their prominent leaders, Jerry Falwell, has a warm friendship with Menachem Begin.

This Fundamentalist link to

Israel is based on their conviction that we are close to the end of the world. We stand on the brink of a global nuclear conflict which will destroy the world, whereupon Jesus will return as the King of Israel and the Saviour of the Faithful.

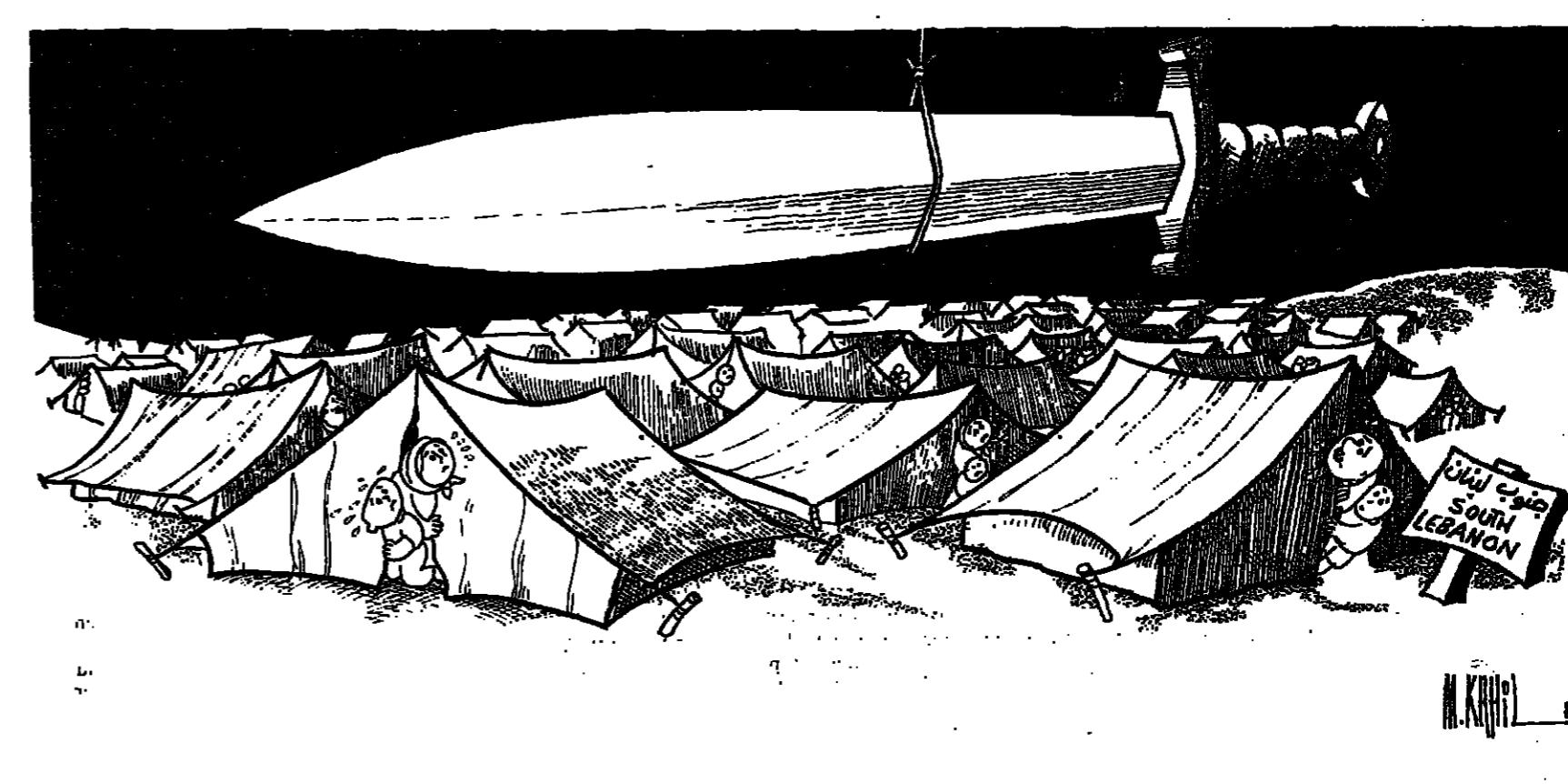
Of course, it is not just the Bible which has led to this Christian-Israel link. It is also Israel's emergence as the chief aider and abettor of reactionary and fascist regimes throughout the world. Israel supports the murderous regime in Guatemala, was a close ally of the late Nicaraguan tyrant Somoza, and now is helping the increasingly repressive government of Honduras. The reactionary politics of both have made allies of Fundamentalists and Israelites.

In English and possibly even in Arabic as well, there is a saying: an enemy of my enemy is my friend. Here in the U.S. we now have the odd spectacle that left and right, for different reasons, are increasingly in opposition to the Reagan administration. and on the issue more so than over the Middle

East. The left wants the U.S. to get out and stay out, but defend continuing aid to Israel. The right wants to make Israel our top Mideastern ally.

It was Nixon who started to shift the U.S. away from Israel, and that process was continued, if weakly, by Ford and Carter. Now a decisive turning point has come. If the U.S. cannot force Israel to get out of Lebanon and begin to give up its grip on the West Bank, then the U.S. will have been proven impotent. And left and right in the U.S. will smile with sardonic satisfaction.

A mild article written in a mildly written magazine may be a weak weapon. Yet neither left nor right here or in other countries should forget that the American people are still a dormant volcano. Their anger over the Vietnam War forced our leaders to change course. It could happen again. This time, though, two presidents want to use this force from below to move Washington towards policies that begin to meet the grievances of four million Palestinians.



The man who embodies the Kampuchean trauma

By Bernard Melnyk
Reuter

NEW DELHI — The complex political position and personality of Prince Norodom Sihanouk will haunt the conference halls at the Non-aligned summit here next month. His claim to represent Kampuchea, where Vietnamese troops ousted the Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge government in January 1979, will be one of two major Asian issues confronting leaders of the 97-member movement when they meet from March 7 to 11.

The other is the continued presence in Afghanistan of Soviet troops, who intervened there in December 1979 and show no signs of leaving despite international condemnation. Both Afghanistan and Kampuchea remain festering sores of discontent in Asia. The summit is likely to serve as a new test of Third World leaders' attitudes towards the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, opposed by many outside the Soviet bloc.

But Kampuchea is likely to stir greater passions among Asian delegates, with supporters of Prince Sihanouk's claim striving to raise a fuss over representation and to isolate Soviet-backed Vietnam and its allies.

India, the host and chairman-elect, is committed to a decision taken at the last Non-aligned summit in Havana in 1979 to keep the Kampuchean seat vacant. The summit is the only non-Communist Asian country to recognise the Vietnamese-backed government of Phnom Penh.

But it has not issued summit invitations to Kampuchea — either to the Phnom Penh administration or to the rival coalition, formed last July and led by Prince Sihanouk, which the United Nations recognises as the legitimate government.

The important thing is that the non-bloc summit must run smoothly, Mr. Malik said. Founder member Yugoslavia also backs Prince Sihanouk but Foreign Minister Lazar Mojsov said that if there was no consensus on the seating, the issue should not be so dramatised as to bog down the summit. On the other hand, Si-

gapore's Mr. Dhanabalan said that if India wanted to save the Non-Aligned Movement it should have the courage to change Havane's decision. The intensity of the demands for seating Prince Sihanouk — including loud calls from China, which is not a member of the Non-Aligned Movement — are matched by his opponents' resolve.

Vietnam has concentrated its diplomatic efforts during the past six months on making sure that the prince was not invited as Kampuchean head of state or in any other capacity. Western diplomats based in Hanoi said.

They said their countries and Indonesia would demand that the Havane decision be revoked. They warned India not to impose its own Kampuchean policy on the Non-Aligned Movement. Indian sources say India is only implementing a consensus decision which does not compromise its Non-aligned position. They say the movement can take decisions on the Kampuchean seat at any time and pressure to invite Prince Sihanouk to the summit amounts to asking India to prejudge the issue.

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China, for its part, has not restricted its views to Kampuchea. Last week the official New China News Agency accused the Soviet Union of trying to stifle discussion on this issue and on Afghanistan at the New Delhi summit.

The depth of international opposition to the Soviet presence in Afghanistan has been shown by Non-aligned and U.N. resolutions calling for the withdrawal of foreign troops. Though far from happy about the presence of Russian troops so close to its borders, India prefers quiet diplomacy and has never flatly condemned the Soviet intervention.

Diplomats say that as summit chairman it may seek a compromise decision on Afghanistan to maintain the unity of the movement. Officials in Afghanistan's neighbour, Pakistan, said they hoped the summit would help to maintain the momentum of recent visits by U.N. peace envoy Diego Cordovez to Islamabad, Kabul and Tehran.

He has said his mission is gradually getting to grips with substantive issues like the return of more than three million Afghan refugees in Pakistan and Iran and guarantees about non-interference in Afghan affairs. Further discussions are due in Geneva in April.

Stockpiling of strategic metals

By Ian Mackenzie
Reuter

LONDON — The British government has started to stockpile strategic metals used in the defence and aerospace industries, prompted by low prices, fears of political instability in Southern Africa and last year's Falklands war. In so doing, Britain has joined the United States, France and Japan among Western industrial nations in seeking to make itself less vulnerable to disruptions in supplies and to maintain production in time of war.

Britain's Junior Industry Minister John MacGregor confirmed recently that the government had decided to establish a small stockpile of strategic minerals. The materials include cobalt, mainly from Zaire and Zambia, and chromium, manganese and vanadium produced in South Africa. These are essential for petroleum, aerospace and machine tool industries.

The Financial Times newspaper said it was believed the government wanted to acquire enough stock to last three months and estimated the cost at about \$75 million at current prices.

A select committee of the House of Lords (upper chamber) reported last October that two criteria should be used in deciding what to stockpile. The importance of a mineral to the national economy and vulnerability of supply.

It said the four most important materials were chromium and manganese used in the steel industry, the platinum group of metals used in the electrical and car industries and in medicine, and phosphate rock used for fertiliser.

Metal prices have been rising recently but are still well below their historic peaks and are thus tempting to government buyers. Traders say purchases for the British stockpiles are unlikely to have a significant effect on prices.

A U.S. Senate committee report last December warned that Western countries should prepare themselves for any temporary disruption in mineral imports from South Africa in the event of social upheaval there during the next five days' consumption.

Analysts said fears of unrest in Southern Africa and Britain's war with Argentina over the Falkland Islands last year had apparently persuaded the British government to go ahead with the stockpile plan without waiting for concerted European action.

The United States first started stockpiling about 60 strategic materials — ranging from metals and diamonds to drugs such as opium — during the Korean conflict in the early 1950s. But it was in March 1981 that President Reagan ordered the resumption of major purchases for the first time in 20 years. His 1984 budget proposes outlays of \$120 million for purchases of critical materials, the same amount as in 1983. Administration officials said in January the United States would buy one million tonnes of Jamaican bauxite for stockpiling, while purchases from Zaire of cobalt — essential for jet engines — were under consideration.

Mr. Reagan had earlier ordered an increase in stockpiles of manganese and chromium ores. France, the first European Community country to stockpile minerals, started its programme in 1975 with purchases of non-ferrous metals such as copper, lead, tungsten and chrome. The materials include cobalt, mainly from Zaire and Zambia, and chromium, manganese and vanadium produced in South Africa. These are essential for petroleum, aerospace and machine tool industries.

Proposed to build up official reserves of strategic metals in West Germany were discussed in Bonn in the late 1970s, but the idea fell through and has not since been revived

Talking straight

By Marwan Muasher

Arranged marriages: Are they an answer or a problem?



In Jordan there are roughly three stages with regard to co-education and these stages correspond approximately to three stages of human development: childhood, adolescence, and adulthood.

Co-education is not uncommon during childhood. In 1981/82 forty-three per cent of Jordan's elementary schools (ages 6-12) were co-educational. During the stage which corresponds approximately to adolescence, years 12-16, co-education is rare. Only nineteen per cent of Jordan's preparatory schools and six per cent of Jordan's secondary schools were co-educational in 1981/82. During the third stage, adulthood, there is a sudden reappearance of co-education. Both the University of Jordan and Yarmouk University and about two thirds of the community colleges in Jordan (22 out of 32) are co-educational.

The presence of co-education during the first and third stages of education does not reflect an educational policy but is based rather on practical and economic considerations. At the same time, the absence of co-education during preparatory and secondary schooling reflects cultural and social considerations. Thus, the presence or absence of co-education in Jordan is not founded on any consideration of educational factors.

In the West it has been shown that co-education has a great effect on the performance of male and female students. Since sex-gender systems are very much cultural things it should not be expected that the processes and effects of co-education in Jordan, or in any Arab-Islamic country for that matter, would be the same as those in the West.

But it is not unlikely that co-education in Jordan does effect children's performance at school and these effects should be defined and then taken into consideration when forming an educational policy in Jordan on the subject.

Let us consider the findings of some of the recent research on mixed schooling in the U.K. There was a re-organisation of education in Britain during the 1970's in an effort to provide more equal opportunities for self-fulfilment and development. The main innovation in the new education system was the introduction of comprehensive schools. Another important aspect of the campaign to abolish selective schooling was a policy for mass co-education at the secondary school level.

Co-education was assumed to be progressive. Studies have

shown however, that the results run directly counter to most of the beliefs and assumptions supporting co-educational schools. Dale's research (1974) shows that boys' academic performance is improved in co-educational schools and that of girls deteriorates. Girls in Britain surpass boys in reading skills throughout primary school but they lose their lead in co-ed secondary schools.

In addition to a decline in the performance of girls in terms of examinations passed and entry into higher and further education, there has been an increase in subject polarisation. In the re-organisation many smaller and single-sex schools were combined and one of the main advantages of the new system was thought to lie in the breadth and range of subjects that the new larger schools could offer.

But HM Inspectorate on Circular Differences for Boys and Girls in Mixed and Single-sex Schools Report in 1975 showed that girls were less likely to choose a science subject if they attended a mixed school than they would if they went to a single-sex girls school even though in a mixed school they were more likely to be offered science. In fact, any correlation between the sex of the pupil and the popularising of a subject was markedly greater in mixed than in single-sex schools.

How is it that co-educational schools continue to provide unequal opportunities for males and females?

In the first place, not all subjects are offered to both boys and girls. This is the case in some Vocational Secondary Education Programme in Jordan where women are still excluded from industrial and agricultural specialisations. Secondly, boys and girls are often taught the same subject separately, especially -- in the case of Britain -- in sports and certain vocational subjects.

Furthermore, even when boys and girls occupy the same physical space, they do not occupy the same social space or receive the same educational experience. Research has shown: the great effect of teachers' expectations on children's performance and how these expectations are oriented by children's gender.

Boys defined themselves as being whatever else, at least not a girl. As a result boys' inclination to work hard can be reduced because of their security. But girls switch their interest and desire for esteem from academic matters to the more traditionally "feminine" ones of personal appearance and success with boys.

GUEST COMMENTARY

Co-education, aimed at equality, isn't all it seems to be

Looking at things from a historical perspective, a de facto segregation of sexes was (and, to some extent, is) in effect in Jordan. Co-educational schools were not allowed; and for a long time, women were not even seen unveiled in public. Because culture forbade members of opposite sexes from even speaking to each other, it had to come up with a way to maintain and preserve the important institution of marriage; hence the common practice of arranged marriages. Basically, the young man declares his intention of getting married, and then one or several "matchmakers" (usually his mother) make sure that find him an appropriate wife.

In those days, life was far less

sophisticated than it is now. Major decisions were made by the husband, and thus the chances of conflicts arising in a marriage were slim. The woman was taught all her life that she was not to disobey her husband, and that her main and only duty was to bear and raise children. Being uneducated and not knowing any better, the woman accepted this role as a fact of life.

The concept of marriage in its modern understanding was practically non-existent. For the most part, it was done out of convenience. Human relationships and feelings that should be developed and refined to their highest form between a husband and wife were not. Arranged marriages

served the purpose of that culture and worked well in it.

Today that culture has partly changed, yet the practice of arranged marriages still exists. Is this solution that has seemingly worked for hundreds of years still valid today? Could it work as effectively as it did before? And if the answer is no, what, then, is the alternative?

To answer this question, we must first examine some of the changes that took place in our culture. The first and foremost is education. As our new generation is discovering, earning a degree means far more than learning a skill in a particular field. It means broadening one's horizons. It means wanting more from life

than food and shelter. It also means a deeper appreciation of human relations.

With the emergence of a new, young, educated class, the need is being felt for better knowledge of the other sex. More people are feeling that a lot of planning has to take place before an undertaking as enormous as marriage is attempted. And that planning should include knowing and understanding the other sex in order to formulate a better idea of it and choose the proper future mate.

The other drastic change that has taken place is the relative change in the traditional man-woman relationship. As women are getting educated, they are no longer accepting the role men want them

to play. Women are discovering they are just as capable as men, and that marriage means far more than preparing meals and cleaning the house. They are asking for a more equitable share and a larger role to play, equal to that of their husbands.

Thus the concept of marriage as our forefathers knew it is changing. Complex human emotions are being tested, developed and refined. Exceptions of both sides from marriage are getting higher. Many educated men no longer want their wives to be only involved in house matters, but demand a more intellectually satisfying relationship. The same is true for the wife, who wants to share in her husband's decisions

and have some of her own.

Arranged marriages are not the answer in such cases, because they do not allow the couple an ample chance to know each other and find out whether they are compatible enough to meet and withstand all these demands and pressures.

The simple alternative, of course, is to allow our young men and women a certain degree of freedom in knowing each other before any marriage plans are even contemplated. Our society is somewhat touchy about this point, offering several arguments against such an alternative. Some of the typical ones are:

-- "Dating" conflicts with hon-

our.

-- Dating is a western idea that corrupts our society.

-- Love does not have to come before marriage. It can develop afterwards (It also might not).

-- Love is not a necessary criterion for marriage. Marriages based on love can fail. (Never mind the ones not based on love that also fail.)

Such arguments are of course readily refutable. But, I am afraid we still expect our sons and daughters to earn a degree without all the "peripherals" that come with it. When it comes to marriage, we expect them to resort to our old ways, and we, many times, do not tolerate different behaviour.

Many young people, because it is difficult to date, resort to the old traditional way of arranged marriages simply because they have no choice. This, I think, is very dangerous. For apart from the shortcomings of such marriages, it will lead to many internal and serious conflicts between ideals and reality.

Our young people are pushing more and more for their right to know each other. They are forcing society to decide between a protective lifestyle that does not enhance living, or reaching out and putting up with the consequent temporary feeling of insecurity. I sincerely hope it will choose the latter course.

Singapore revives family traditions in response to housing crisis



By Dilip Mukerjee

The crowded island state of Singapore will need to double its number of housing units before its population stabilises at 3.6 million, and much more housing will be needed unless the growing numbers of elderly are housed, as they have been traditionally, with their children.

Concerned over the increasing number of the elderly and who will care for them in the future, Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew, has decided that the ancient Confucian concept of *xiao* or filial duty must be revived among the Singapore Chinese, who make up 75 per cent of the 2.4 million population.

Mr. Lee is organising his campaign to inculcate filial duty with characteristic vigour. Exhortations through the media are being supplemented with material incentives and disincentives in a repeat of the approach adopted

from 1970 to help bring the population growth rate down from the high levels in the 1950s and 1960s to the current 1.5 per cent.

In an address last year on Chinese New Year's Day, the most important family celebration in the community's calendar, he said that he was prepared, reluctantly and sadly, to use legislation to ensure compliance with filial obligations.

Quite a few of his younger citizens are shocked by his decision. But a survey in the Straits Times daily newspaper showed that eight out of ten respondents over 50 years old thought laws were necessary.

In the same speech Mr. Lee marshalled telling economic arguments to reinforce his case for the extended, three-generation family, pointing out that Singapore will need, before its population stabilizes at 3.6 million by the year 2030, an additional 430,000 housing units or almost

double the number now available. This projection is based on an average household size of four. But if nuclear families become the norm, the city state will need a further 300,000 units. "We do not have the land, 62 square kilometres is all that is available," he added. Expanding Singapore's area by reclaiming the sea would be prohibitively expensive.

Mr. Lee has already gone ahead to introduce what may be the first of several legal prods. In the city where over two-thirds of families already live in government housing estates and the proportion keeps rising because of the soaring prices of privately-built units, a new point system has been introduced to determine the place of those in the queue for allotments. Three-generation families will get priority, and have a much better chance of getting larger flats than are highly prized.

Another disincentive is in the offing. At present no estate duty is charged to children if they inherit one house from parents, but Mr. Lee says this may be made conditional on a son or daughter living with a surviving parent. There is also talk of introducing a law giving parents the right to claim maintenance -- a proposal which like the others, has evoked mixed reactions.

The government is also worried about the risks of social tension inherent in the increasing number of "guest workers", drawn mainly from Malaysia and Thailand and the rest from India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. They are already a tenth of the labour force, and the ratio may rise even higher as the reduced birth rate slows down the number entering the job market. Mr. Lee wants to phase out all guest workers over the next four years, and make up for it by automation and more women workers.

In 1981, 79 per cent of women in the 20-24 age group were economically active but the ratio dropped rapidly at higher ages to as little as 22 per cent at 50-54. This reflects the widespread practice of women quitting once they start raising families. Mr. Lee and his planners want to persuade more of them to return to work after they have had their babies, preferably not more than two. He believes this return will be facilitated if grandparents were around to mind children.

Will Mr. Lee succeed in his campaign for *xiao*? Will the carrots and sticks do the trick? The first point to note is that the proportion of those aged 60 and above is still low -- 7.3 per cent of the population in 1980. By his own figures, there were only 13,720 households of old people living by themselves in 1980, two-fifths of them with only one surviving spouse. In other words, the problem is limited to just three per cent of all households. Thus

Mr. Lee's alarm over the imminent breakdown of traditional values reflects his fears of what may happen rather than the current reality.

The second point is that the impact of incentives and disincentives may be less than the government is inclined to assume. Opinions on this differ widely because of differences -- so far unresolved by research -- on what effect similar policies had on pushing or persuading people first to restrict births and later phase them out over a longer period.

The U.N. Fund for Population Activities conducted a survey in Singapore on the effect of laws on childbearing decisions in 1976. Three-quarters of the 864 respondents said that disincentives had nothing to do with the choices they themselves made. In particular, loss of income tax rebates -- one of the sticks employed -- mattered to none.

But a subsequent and larger survey in 1977 showed that 19.4 per cent acknowledged having been very much affected, 54 per cent a little affected and only 27 per cent not at all.

The later survey brought out the fact that the policy of preferential allocation of housing counted with 52 per cent and income tax with 30 per cent; but the impact of denial of admission to primary schools of choice was the decisive reason for 68 per cent.

Since the difference between the two surveys is still to be satisfactorily explained, there is no choice but to defer judgement on the renewed use of the housing carrots and the tax stick to cope with the problems of the aged whose number and proportion will grow rapidly in Singapore -- as elsewhere -- in the wake of better health care and falling birth rates.

-- People News - Features

Lee Kuan Yew: Appealing to traditional family responsibility

TV & RADIO	WHAT'S GOING ON	FOR THE TRAVELLER	USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.
JORDAN TELEVISION	BBC WORLD SERVICE 639, 720, 1431 kHz	AMMAN AIRPORT	EMERGENCIES
MAIN CHANNEL	6:30 ... Koran 6:50 ... Cartoons 7:15 ... International Theatre 7:30 ... Sports 7:45 ... Local Programme 8:00 ... Local News 8:30 ... Arabic Series 9:00 ... Arabic Film 11:00 ... News in Arabic 11:10 ... Arabic Film (Continues)	EXHIBITIONS	Ambulance 193, 75111 Firstaid, fire, police 199 Blood bank 75121 Civil Defence rescue 661111 Fire headquarters 220900-3 Police rescue 192, 21111, 37777 Police headquarters 39141 Police office 56390-1 Electric Power Co. 66381-2 Municipal water service 71125-4
RADIO JORDAN	855 KHz, AM & 94 MHz, FM & partly on 95.60 KHz SW	SERVICE CLUBS	ZARQA: Dr. Yahya Al Tarif S1520-82684 Al Shaab pharmacy (—)
8:15 ... Morning Show 8:30 ... News Bulletin 8:45 ... News Summary 12:30 ... News Summary 12:45 ... Pop Session 14:30 ... Picnic Time 15:00 ... Concert Hour 16:00 ... News Summary 16:15 ... Instruments 17:30 ... Jordan Weekly 17:30 ... Special Feature 18:00 ... News Summary 18:30 ... Books of Islam 19:00 ... Newscast 19:30 ... Top Twenty Date with a Star 20:30 ... News Summary 21:30 ... Classical Concert 21:30 ... News Summary 21:30 ... First Spin 22:00 ... News Summary 22:00 ... Country Music 22:00 ... New Headlines, Sign Off	CULTURAL CENTRES	IRBID: Dr. Nidal Haddad 74540 Khalas pharmacy 75770	
VOICE OF AMERICA	1260, 7205, 11250	CHURCHES	GENERAL
8:55-90 The Breakfast Show: 1700 News and This Week 1715 Press Conference 18:00 Special English: News, Words, and Their Stories, Feature: Short Stories 18:30 Today, New York 19:30 Wednesday 20:00 Special English 20:30 World News 21:00 News and The World 21:30 Press Conference 22:00 News Special English: News and Woods and Their Stories 22:15 Music USA (Jazz) 23:00 Weekend	MUSEUMS	Jordan Television 73111 Radio Jordan 74111 Ministry of Tourism 42311 Jordan complaints 666412 Armeny, Marks 916116 Telephone: Information 12 Jordan and Middle East calls 10 Overseas calls 17 Cable or telegram 18 Repair service 11	
	PRAINTER TIMES	DEPARTURES	NIGHT DUTY
	04:45 ... Cairo (RJ) 05:00 ... Jeddah (RJ) 05:15 ... Baghdad (RJ) 05:30 ... Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ) 05:45 ... Cairo (EA) 06:00 ... Cario (EA)	Local sellbuy rates in fils Belgian franc 74.4 / 74.8 Dutch guilder 132.6 / 133.4 Egyptian guinea 320.5 / 326 French franc 51.7 / 52 Iraqi dinar 560.6 / 570.6 Italian lire (for 100) 25.4 / 25.6 Japanese yen (for 100) 150.7 / 151.6 Kuwaiti dinar 1214.5 / 1221.5 Malaysian ringgit 88.5 / 89.4 Mexican peso 101.8 / 102.2 London (RJ) 97.2 / 97.5 Swiss franc 103.6 / 105.0 Swedish krona 47.7 / 48 Kuwait (KAC) 174.2 / 175.2 Cairo (RJ) 62.3 / 62.9 Baghdad (RJ) 96.3 / 97.1 Bern (RJ) 540.5 / 543.7 Kuwait (RJ) 354.5 / 356.5 Doha, Mistcat (GA) 146.5 / 147.4	Dr. Nidal Maraqah 71218-842642
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	08:45 ... London (RJ) 97.2 / 97.5 12:30 ... Frankfurt, Brussels (RJ) 103.6 / 105.0 14:30 ... Cairo (RJ) 174.2 / 175.2 16:30 ... Kuwait (KAC) 62.3 / 62.9 18:45 ... Bern (RJ) 540.5 / 543.7 19:00 ... Kuwait (RJ) 354.5 / 356.5 19:00 ... Doha, Mistcat (GA) 146.5 / 147.4	Upper/lower price in fils per kg. Apple (American) 420 / 350 Apple (Double Red) 200 / 150 Apple (Golden) 200 / 150 Apple (Turkish) 250 / 200 Apple (French) 300 / 250 Apple (Starken) 200 / 150 Banana 270 / 220	

SPORTS

Wilkins returns to United for clash against Liverpool

LONDON (R) — Former England soccer captain Ray Wilkins will be anxious to put the fast few months behind him when he skips Manchester United against runaway English League leaders Liverpool on Saturday.

Wilkins has played only one full first team game since he broke his checkbox in a League Cup tie in October.

His enforced absence from the game cost him both his club and England captaincy to Bryan Robson. By an ironic twist of fate an injury to Robson, Britain's costliest player, has given Wilkins the chance to re-establish himself in the United side and possibly the England team.

Roson tore ankle ligaments in Wednesday's League Cup semi-final against Arsenal and could miss both the final of the League Cup against Liverpool on March 26 and England's next European Championship Group Three tie against Greece on March 30.

Wilkins could hardly have a more demanding task at Old Tra-

ford Saturday. United cannot afford anything less than a win. "It's the final of the League as far as we are concerned," Ron Atkinson, United's manager, said. "If we lose to Liverpool then it's hard to see how we can close the gap on them at the top of the table."

Defeat would leave second-placed United trailing the Merseyside club by 18 points.

Liverpool's character will be put to the test as they try to recover from the shock of two successive defeats, the second in the Football Association (F.A.) Cup by Brighton on Sunday ending their dream of landing four trophies this season.

Clubs reject TV offer

English soccer clubs rejected a £5.3 million (\$8m) offer from broadcasting companies Thursday in a deadlock that could black out television coverage of the sport

next season. Both sides say the dispute is crucial for the future of British football and the habits of the fans whom it depends.

The issues include declining attendance at grounds, how much football should be broadcast, whether it will be shown live or, as now, recorded for later transmission, and whether the clubs can put advertisements on their players' shirts.

At a special meeting in London, the chairmen of the 32 Football League clubs voted unanimously to turn down the companies' offer.

"The clubs feel the offer is derisory," League President Jack Dunnett told reporters. "The clubs are prepared to risk losing television coverage altogether in order to hold out for a better offer," he added.

But the broadcasting companies—the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) and the Commercial Independent Television—say they will not raise their bid.

Watanabe retains WBA title

TSU, Japan (R) — Japan's Jiro Watanabe retained his World Boxing Association (WBA) junior bantamweight title when he knocked out Peruvian challenger Luis Ibanez in the eighth round here Thursday night.

Watanabe, 27, was in complete control from the first bell of his third defence and had won all seven rounds on Puerto Rican referee Waldemar Schmitz's card before the fight came to an end after one minute 22 seconds of the eighth.

Watanabe, also comfortably ahead on the two judges' scorecards, twice sent Ibanez to the canvas in the eighth. A right hook to the head put the challenger down for the first time and when he was quickly toppled by a powerful left, Schmitz stepped in and counted him out as he tried to rise to his feet.

"I knew I had him when he first went down on his knees," said the champion.

Ibanez, who could never match Watanabe's speed or aggression, suffered a series of cuts around the eyes and admitted: "He was too fast for me."

Watanabe has now won all three title fights inside the distance since taking the crown from Rafael Perdomo of Panama in April last year. He has won 18 of his 19 fights, 13 inside the distance.

Entries are classified on a complicated formula involving everything from length and most hits.

Yachtsmen around the globe try to break 132-year-old American monopoly

MIAMI, Florida (R) — The staff at the tradition-bound New York Yacht Club have been dutifully polishing the America's Cup for 132 years. But Yachtsmen from around the world are determined to give them a break.

Yachtsmen from Britain, Canada, Australia, France and Italy hope next September to see an empty pedestal in the middle of the club's domed trophy room, where the Cup has been rooted since 1851.

Whether it can be wrested from its New York home will be decided off Newport, Rhode Island, in the world's premier yacht race, which blends tradition and high technology, blue-bloods and entrepreneurs.

But first the crews must compete against each other to settle who will give the unbeaten Americans a run for their Cup in September.

The Canadians have not mounted a challenge this century but are undeterred. Bruce Kirby, designer of their entry Canada I, said: "We've looked the opposition over and I think we have as good a chance as anyone else."

Kirby is as taciturn as any New England Yankee when it comes to discussing the fine points of his creation.

Entries are classified on a complicated formula involving everything from length and most hits.

Matters began to improve only in 1970 when, for the first time, foreign entries were allowed to race each other to decide who should face the American entry.

Previously, it was the sole prerogative of the New York club to select the competing vessel.

All entries once had to be 100 per cent home-produced, from design to computerised navigational aids. But this stipulation was eased in 1980 and contenders were allowed to buy an equipment available in their countries, including foreign manufacture.

"Now the technological edge is disappearing," Castenet said. "If it still remains at all this year, it will certainly be gone by 1986."

Challengers also fear the U.S. have the better choice of crews. Canada's Keary said: "In small boat sailing Canadians are at the top of the heap, but we have a hard time finding experienced crew for the bigger boats."

"When the Yanks want to put a crew together it is only a question of picking out the cream of the crop."

The Canadians decided to select world-class sailors of smaller boats and weld them into a 12-metre crew.

The French have completely revamped their entry, the tri-coloured France II. Castenet said the hull was the only surviving part of the vessel which nearly beat the

Australian entry in the races leading up to the 1980 Cup challenge.

"We had sail troubles," he recalled. "All that is changed now." He said he admired the Canadian design but added: "there have been similar designs in the past."

Canada I got its first taste of salt-water sailing last week. The young Canadian team and the French veterans will later sail Spinnaker in practice races before going to the first qualifying races in Newport on June 1.

While the Canadians, who rely mainly on the generosity of South Florida tourism promoters for berths and lodgings, the British are spending about \$80,000 a week.

The British have two potential entries, the Lionheart and the Victory, and four seasoned captains competing to skipper the entry at Newport.

"This is a much bigger campaign than earlier British challenges," sailing coach Peter Bateman said. "We are going into everything in much greater depth." He thinks Britain have a 50-50 chance of winning.

But he added: "There's an element of chance in yacht racing and if luck goes against us, that's unfortunate."

The sentiment is undoubtedly shared by financier Peter de Savory, head of the British syndicate, who has sunk \$8m of his own money into the challenge.

French soccer turns to prime minister for financial help

PARIS (R) — French professional soccer, in severe financial crisis despite growing crowds and World Cup successes last year, has appealed to Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy for help.

In an open letter to Mauroy, the National League asked for an early meeting to discuss financial burdens faced by clubs, especially a recent increase in compulsory social security payments from 2.5 per cent of salaries to 30 per cent.

League administrator Jacques Thebaud told reporters: "Eight clubs have already filed for bankruptcy, others face the risk of it. Some clubs are behind in their payments. The problem cannot go on forever."

In addition to social security payments and normal income tax, clubs must also pay a form of ent-

ertainment tax. Thebaud said the latest figures available for the 1980-1981 season showed League clubs had a total deficit of between \$2.9 to \$4.3 million.

Although attendance has improved significantly at first division matches this season, one official said: "Despite that, clubs are in desperate straits."

This season clubs will gain some benefit from France'sfeat in finishing fourth in the 1982 World Cup finals.

Each first division club will receive \$55,000 from a pool set up by the French Football Federation to handle the income from sponsorships and television broadcasts.

One club not facing hard times

England's losing cricket tour ends in Christchurch

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand (R) — Four losing months on the road for Bob Willis's England cricketers come to an end here Saturday with the last of the one-day internationals against New Zealand.

Since mid-October, England have lost the Ashes in Australia after a five-year tenure, failed to make the finals of the World Series Cup competition and been hammered in the first two one-day internationals in New Zealand.

The trail of misery ends at Lancaster Park here Saturday and Willis admitted after the loss in

Wellington on Wednesday that one of his biggest problems is motivation.

"Our lads are trying hard but after such a long tour it has been very difficult to motivate them," he said.

"We want to win tomorrow of course. We hope to show yet that we do have some ability and the last match might be the chance to do that."

Apart from his players being jaded, Willis also conceded that the front-line bowling attack, of which he is a member, has been a problem. "It's very important we

bowl an attacking line."

Despite the succession of disappointing results, England's selectors have resisted widespread changes for Saturday's match with Norman Cowans's recall at the expense of Derek Pringle the only change in personnel.

In addition there is an adjustment to the batting order. The seven-match experiment of Ian Botham opening is ended, Ian Gould moving up to partner Chris Tavaré and Botham dropping down to number five.

"After our recent performances we felt Ian would add more stability to the middle order," said Willis.

A decision on whether all-round Richard Hadlee returns to the New Zealand side will be taken Saturday.

Willis's serve in the second set to even the match. But 22-year-old

Gerulaitis reached the semi-finals of ATP tournament in Kuwait

KUWAIT (R) — Top seed Vitus Gerulaitis of the U.S. reached the semi-finals of an Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) tournament Thursday night, beating West Germany's Michael Westphal 7-6, 6-1 after a closely-fought first set.

The young German's big serve tested Gerulaitis in the opening set but the American's class finally carried him through the tiebreaker 7-3.

Unseeded Stanislav Birner of Czechoslovakia made the last four by beating number four seed Rod Frawley of Australia 6-3, 6-4.

The other quarter final results: Magnus Tidemand (Sweden) beat Zoltan Kuharsky (Switzerland) 6-2, 4-6, 6-3. Heinz Guenthardt (Switzerland) beat Libor Pimek (Czechoslovakia) 6-4, 6-4.

Noah beats fellow-countryman Leconte

LA QUINTA, California (R) — Second-seeded Yannick Noah of France overcame a two-hour rain delay and a comeback attempt by fellow-countryman Henri Leconte to score a 6-0, 4-6, 6-2, victory Thursday in the third round of a \$255,000 tennis tournament.

Leconte, seeded ninth, broke Noah's serve in the second set to even the match. But 22-year-old

Noah, the tournament's defending champion, took only 30 minutes after rain suspended play during the third and deciding set, to secure the win.

In other matches, unseeded American Mike Bauer, who beat top seed Jimmy Connors in straight sets on Wednesday, scored his second upset, beating number 12 seed Chris Lewis of New Zealand 6-4, 6-4.

Third-seeded Jose Higueras of Spain beat Tom Gullikson of the U.S. 7-6, 6-4. Fourth-seeded American Eliot Teltscher also moved into the quarterfinals by beating Jan Gunnarsson of Sweden 7-6, 6-0. Robert Van't Hof of the U.S. beat Russell Simpson of New Zealand, the 14th seed 6-0, 6-3.

Dev was bringing on his frontline spinners, the 38-year-old veteran Venkat and 17-year-old slow-left-arm Maninder Singh.

Veteran West Indian fast bowler wrapped up the Indians' first innings before lunch. Venkat went for nought after being forced onto his stumps by a vicious ball that smashed into his shoulder.

West Indies, chasing India's first innings total of 251, could have found themselves in deep trouble without a fighting 50 not out from Gordon Greenidge and sensible batting from skipper Clive Lloyd (20). They were still battoning at close of play Thursday.

Richards joined Greenidge with the West Indian score on 56 and at a time when Indian skipper Kapil

Indian spinners trouble West Indies

KINGSTON, Jamaica (R) — India's spin bowlers pinned down West Indies to 149 for four wickets and star batsman Viv Richards went to see a doctor after doubling over in pain on the second day of the first cricket test.

West Indies, chasing India's first innings total of 251, could have found themselves in deep trouble without a fighting 50 not out from Gordon Greenidge and sensible batting from skipper Clive Lloyd (20). They were still battoning at close of play Thursday.

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ECONOMY

Consultations continue on the oil front

PARIS (R) — Non-OPEC Mexico Friday delayed an expected cut in its oil price to allow the exporter group more breathing space for its efforts here and in the Middle East to avert a world oil price war.

Mexican Oil Minister Francisco Labastida, in Paris for talks with his Algerian, Venezuelan and Kuwaiti counterparts, said Mexico would not announce a price cut Friday as it had intended.

He said the decision had been delayed pending further oil market developments.

These were thought to include the outcome of OPEC attempts to persuade other non-OPEC producers, such as Britain, to cooperate in preventing a price collapse.

Before flying off to Riyadh for talks with Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Ahmad Zaki Yamani, Venezuelan Oil Minister Humberto Calderon Bertoldi told Reuters he saw Britain as a crucial link between consumers and producers in any bid to avert a price war.

The surprise arrival of the four ministers in the French capital Thursday was apparently part of a concerted effort to establish a degree of cooperation in advance of next week's proposed OPEC mee-

ting in either Geneva or Vienna.

The OPEC meeting has still to be formally announced and doubts remained whether it would take place.

Nigerian officials have said they want guarantees of cooperation from non-OPEC producers if their country is to attend and Indonesian Oil Minister Subroto said in Jakarta Friday his country would prefer not to have a meeting if it appeared no consensus was likely to emerge.

Iranian leaders meanwhile have for two days running accused Saudi Arabia of trying to bring down the world oil price in order to damage Iran.

The present intense activity on the oil front was prompted by this week's decision by the Gulf states, led by Saudi Arabia, to cut their oil prices by an unspecified amount in response to cuts by Britain, Norway and Nigeria.

The size of the cut will depend on whether other states in the 13-member Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries cooperate in a new deal on pricing and production.

If there is no agreement, the Gulf has warned it will undercut other exporters in order to main-

tain its share of the dwindling world market for oil.

As Mr. Calderon headed for Riyadh another Venezuelan delegation, in London Thursday for talks with British officials, headed for a similar round of talks in Norway Friday. Venezuelan diplomats said.

Mr. Calderon held breakfast talks Friday morning with Mr. Labastida and Algerian Oil Minister Belkacem Nabi, but the three made no statements afterwards on their discussions.

Thursday the Kuwaiti and Mexican ministers held bilateral talks as the Algerian and Venezuelan delegations had discussions before a late night session involving all four at the Kuwaiti embassy.

Mr. Calderon told Reuters he saw the British as a link in possible future cooperation on between OPEC and its customers.

"First we have to settle our problems inside OPEC. But they can be a bridge, a link, between us and the consumers," he said..

Britain is now among the world's top 10 oil producers with an output of 2.2 million barrels a day. It is an exporter and a member of the consumers' club, the International Energy Agency.

Leading oil industry sources said Britain's and Norway's desire to avoid a destructive oil price war could pave the way for a tacit agreement to cooperate with OPEC.

In London, the British government faces a major policy dilemma if it is to help other top oil producers avert a world oil price war, industry sources said Thursday.

For the second time this year Britain has been dragged unwillingly into the limelight of the OPEC crisis as oil ministers try to halt a collapse of the international oil price.

But industry sources said Britain might have to rework its entire oil marketing strategy if it was to respond to appeals from OPEC to cooperate on pricing and production.

Oil analysts said the appeal placed Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's government in a dilemma.

It did not want to see a collapse in the world oil price and the consequent loss of revenue to the British treasury. At the same time, it was committed to an independent policy of producing North Sea oil at maximum capacity.

Cutting back output in order to tighten the world market for oil would be one way for Britain to help OPEC, which is bearing the brunt of the present world oil glut.

But analysts say the main loser from a cutback would be the British government, which pulls back a total of almost 90 per cent of North Sea takings in taxation.

On the other hand, Britain would also face a loss of revenue from an uncontrolled drop in world oil prices.

Analysts also say that if the oil price dropped to below \$25 a barrel, oil companies would have no incentive to go ahead with further exploration and development in costly North Sea fields.

But the pressure from OPEC for Britain to cooperate is intensifying.

In Oslo, Norway is prepared to meet members of OPEC to discuss how to prevent an oil price war, a ministry of oil and energy spokesman said Friday.

However, the spokesman said that Norway had so far not been formally approached by OPEC with any request for closer cooperation on oil prices.

Meanwhile, West Germany

reduced its purchases of Saudi oil sharply last month because Saudi Arabia insisted on holding the price at \$34 a barrel, oil industry sources said Thursday.

The federal office of trade and industry said West German imports of Saudi crude fell to 616,332 tonnes, nearly 30 per cent down from the December figure of 871,058 tonnes and less than a third of the 1.9 million imported in January 1982.

Saudi Arabia, traditionally West Germany's largest source of oil, was only the fourth largest in January. Britain took its place at the top, exporting 1.1 million tonnes.

An industry source said: "It is apparent that because Saudi Arabia was holding tight to its \$34 a barrel benchmark price it has lost a large part of its West German market."

The sources said the figures were not affected by the recent reductions in the price of British and Nigerian oil, which were backed to Feb. 1.

Importers were already moving away from Saudi Arabia to find cheaper prices elsewhere, they said.

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, FEB. 26, 1983

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A day to enjoy the pursuits which bring you the greatest amount of relief from pressures. A time to express your appreciation to those who have been loyal to you in the past.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Contacting associates and talking over how to improve the relationship is wise at this time. Avoid a troubleraker.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) You can make the right improvements to your surroundings now and gain added prestige. Plan the future wisely.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Your finest talents can be expressed most intelligently now and you can make a fine impression on others. Be logical.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Show that you appreciate new benefits which you now enjoy. Strive for more happiness and harmony in the home.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) You are able to gain the support of those who are important in your life. Show true appreciation in a tangible way.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You are now able to get the backing you need so that you can put a new project in operation. Make improvements to property.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You can accomplish almost anything you set your mind to at this time. Attend the social tonight and show affection for friends.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Let your intuitive forces come to the fore now which can be helpful when dealing with allies. No risks in motion.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Think in terms of how you can help friends in need. Any social affairs to which you are invited should be attended.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Obtain the right appliances which will make your home more functional and efficient. Don't lose your temper with foes.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Obtain the information you need from the right source. A friend can be most helpful to you now. Show your appreciation.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Don't take loved one so much for granted. Make sure your bills are paid. Take steps to improve your surroundings.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will be one of those persons with a particular charm that most everyone likes. There is much artistry in this nature and this should be accentuated in the educational curriculum. Don't neglect ethical training.

"The Stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

Baghdad seeks new credits for key projects

By Nicholas Moore
Reuter

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq, its resources drained by the 29-month-old Gulf war with Iran, is seeking new credits for key projects and imports of arms and morale-boosting consumer goods, business and diplomats say.

The government wants the credits to keep economic activity up to the present reduced level while non-strategic new projects may be shelved until next year or beyond, they add.

French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson said during a recent visit here the Iraqis had made brave decisions in their management of the economy.

He noted that Iraq sought credit for actual and future projects but gave no details of a major credit package being discussed with France.

France supplies arms to Iraq and is involved in many key projects including nuclear research.

French press reports have said the package would be worth \$4 billion or more. It would enable Iraq to continue buying French arms in return for oil and allow French firms to carry on working here.

In Washington, Reagan administration officials said the United

States had offered Iraq credits of up to \$250 million to finance sales of American farm products.

Businessmen say credits are sought generally to help finance new projects and day-to-day imports of arms, ammunition, food and consumer goods. A few firms have been asked to submit refinancing proposals for ongoing ventures.

The Iraqis are learning to live on credit and it should not be impossible for them," a visiting Western executive said.

A West European salesman reported: "My business is down 50 per cent in the past year. They're shopping around, going to places like South East Asia to cheaper suppliers. But what I do? I do not want to lose Iraq."

The strongest Iraqi card, as Mr. Cheysson noted, is that an economy with 35 billion barrels of proven crude oil reserves, and 14 million people, should rebound dramatically when the war ends.

Oil prices are poised to decline and Iraqi oil exports are throttled by the war.

Iraq's Gulf terminals are shut. Syria, an Arab sympathiser of Iran, refuses to allow Iraqi oil across its territory. That leaves one pipeline across Turkey carrying no more than 650,000 barrels per day against Iraq's total pre-war output

of above three million.

Diplomats expect some financial help from Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states to continue, but be closed to the war effort.

They said it is unlikely to be on the scale of the \$18 to \$25 billion committed so far which enabled Iraq, which also drew down its reserves, to carry on a rapid development programme during the first two years of war.

Statistics are hard to obtain in wartime Baghdad but commercial sources concur that hard currency reserves may be down to between \$6 and \$8 billion from more than \$30 billion at the height of the oil boom before the Gulf war.

The main Basra refinery was damaged early in the war, forcing

Iraq to import some refined oil products from Kuwait.

The closure of Basra and Umm Qasr, Iraq's other Gulf port, means imports must be brought across Kuwait, Turkey and Jordan, with inevitable bottlenecks.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein said Iraq, in its latest battlefield offensive, might be trying to bring its long-range guns into range of one of the highways to Kuwait but the main such route is well to the west, away from the war zone.

In Misur province, southeast of Baghdad and east of the Iraqi town of Amara, the Iraqi army is deeply entrenched and independent military analysts tho-

ught Iran, even with massed tanks and infantry, would find it difficult to penetrate far into Iraq.

Among specific projects, diplomats thought a proposed Baghdad underground railway, expected to cost at least \$1 billion would be postponed.

Iraq might also postpone the start of a new Baghdad-Basra rail line costing \$2 billion they said.

The leading contender for that contract is a partnership of Hyundai of South Korea and Brazil's Junior Mendez.

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LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Equities were mixed and above the day's lows as two U.S. banks cut their prime rates, dealers said. The F.T.-index at 1500 Friday was up 1.1 at 638.3.

ICI was up 6p at 378 while Plessey was down 5p at 579 after 571, both on further consideration of Thursday's figures. Golds turned mixed after early firmness and Americans were higher.

Government bonds closed at the day's best levels, encouraged by the U.S. bank prime rate cuts, to show gains of as much as 1/2 point in moderate trading, dealers said. Some switching was noted out of conventional stocks into index-linked issues, which were 1/2 point higher in places.

Oils fluctuated before settling around Thursday night's closing levels.

Speculative issues attracted heavy selling interest with Polly Peck down 13p to 2,300 after 2,200. Banks showed gains stretching to 12p, while in insurances, Sedgwick was down 5p at 207 after 202 following news it does not intend to bid for Alexander and Alexander Services, which rose 37p to 1,500.

Blue Circle was down 3p at 383 after 376 following news that its bid for Aberthaw will not be referred to the Monopolies Commission. Aberthaw rose 47p to 610.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One sterling	1.5255/65	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.2282/85	Canadian dollars
	2.4140/50	West German dollars
	2.6690/6700	Dutch guilders
	2.0295/0310	Swiss francs
	47.59/64	Belgian francs
	6.8565/95	French francs
	1394.00/1395.00	Italian lire
	234.85/235.00	Japanese yen
	7.4100/4200	Swedish crowns
	7.1250/1350	Norwegian crowns
	8.5930/6050	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	466.50/467.50	U.S. dollars

THE Daily Crossword By Arthur W. Peterson

ACROSS	25	River deposits	46	Baseball	18	Norse literature
1	Herring sauce	28	Auxiliary	19	Type of valve	
5	Rose part	29	Individual	20	Europeans	
10	Whaling captain	32	1 of 5	24	Fleming and Smith	
14	In — (completely)	33	Pineapple	25	Actress	
15						

WORLD

British centrist alliance gains Labour seat in sensational win

LONDON (R) — Britain's centrist Liberal-Social Democrat alliance won the London by-election in Bermondsey Friday, seizing the opposition Labour Party stronghold by a margin of more than 9,000 votes.

Liberal Simon Hughes, a 31-year-old barrister, captured the parliamentary seat which had been held by Labour for nearly 60 years with 17,017 votes, 54.4 per cent of the turnout.

Labour's Peter Tatchell, a controversial Australian-born left-winger, crashed to a big defeat. He received 7,698 votes, 26 per cent, in the House of Commons con-

stituency where Labour cruised home with an 11,756 majority in the 1979 general election.

The Conservative Party of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher saw its share of the vote sliced from 7,582 votes, one quarter of the total in the 1979 poll, to 1,631.

Michael Foot defiant

LONDON (R) — Opposition leader Michael Foot pledged Friday to lead Britain's troubled Labour Party at the next general election despite a devastating defeat at the hands of the minority Liberal-Social Democratic alliance.

Mr. Foot, speaking shortly after the alliance trounced Labour in an important by-election in London's Docklands district of Bermondsey, said it was a setback.

"No one can deny that," the 69-year-old Labour leader said after the loss of one of the safest Labour seats in Parliament.

Asked how the result would affect his leadership, Mr. Foot said: "The country needs a Labour government which will rebuild British industry, restore full employment, and overcome the dangers of the nuclear arms race."

"My determination to fight and win that election is as strong as it

was on the day I became leader of the Labour Party in November, 1980.

"I intend to carry out the task for which I was elected."

Bermondsey was the alliance's first gain of a Labour seat and Social Democratic Party President Shirley Williams said it proved that Labour would never form another government.

Liberal leader David Steel declared: "This is not a victory — it is a rout. Labour remains the official opposition, but our alliance is now the effective opposition to the Tory (Conservative) government."

More killed in Assam as refugees flood border states

NEW DELHI (R) — Troops were called in to stop clashes in central areas of Assam as violence continued in the northeastern Indian state and its refugee problem grew more serious.

The army was deployed in three places including Kharabari in the central Darrang district where more than 30 bodies were recovered after clashes, the Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency reported.

Troops were also called out in the Lakhimpur district in the north-central part of the state where police said earlier they had recovered more than 50 bodies of immigrants.

The latest bloodshed has taken the overall death toll from election violence and ethnic clashes to more than 1,500.

At least 8,000 immigrants, mostly Bengalis who came originally from neighbouring Bangladesh, have been given shelter in West Bengal state, while 21,000 tribespeople have crossed into jungles in the Himalayan state of Arunachal Pradesh, according to official reports.

Large numbers of people fleeing Assam had also entered its southern neighbouring state of Manipur, PTI reported. Meanwhile, an official spokesman in Gauhati said relief operations had been put into top gear in all affected areas. He added district authorities had been given firm instructions to call out the army whenever necessary.

In the central Nowrang district, scene of the worst massacre when up to 1,000 immigrant villagers were hacked down by frenzied tribesmen last week, over 25,000 people are now housed in relief camps.

In Goreswar, a small railway town in the central Kamrup straining in the past week to escape fighting with ethnic Assamese.

Peugeot cars brought into Paris metro

PARIS (R) — This week bemused early morning commuters using the busy Saint Augustin Metro underground station in Paris have been threading their way through five shiny new Peugeot 205 cars, the company's latest venture into the small car market.

The move towards defensive planning would be reinforced by doubling the defence intelligence staff, Mr. Serra told the commission.

Conscientious objection will be recognised as an exemption from service, he said. Another innovation would be opening the armed forces to women, he added.

The five cars, parked on red carpeting and attended by chic sales girls, are lined up on the platform.

"Half the people asked us how we got them down the stairs. But it's attracting a lot of interest," one sales girl said.

Seoul relaxes grip

SEOUL (R) — President Chun Doo Hwan of South Korea lifted a ban on political activity imposed on 250 politicians, but three former presidential contenders are among 305 still debarred.

One of them, leading dissident Kim Daq-Jung, is still subject to an eight-year ban imposed initially on 811 politicians in Nov. 1980. Last December, he was freed from jail where he was serving 20 years for sedition and flown to the United States for medical treatment.

The ban still affects the former leader of the dissolved opposition New Democratic Party (NDP), Kim Young-Sam, who has been under house arrest since June 1982.

The third former presidential contender still banned is former Prime Minister Kim Jong-Pil.

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Argentina considers amnesty

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Argentina's military government is planning to issue an official explanation on how it cracked down on leftist guerrillas in the late 1970s, together with an amnesty for servicemen who may have committed human rights abuses during that ruthless campaign, military sources said.

The two measures would be announced simultaneously sometime next month, they added.

The junta initiative is aimed at defusing one of the most politically explosive problems looming over Argentina's planned return to democracy by March.

'No military victory is possible in El Salvador'

NEW YORK (R) — The commander of U.S. military advisers training government troops in El Salvador told a private American mission visiting the country that there could be no military victory over the rebels, a Democratic Congressman said.

Congressman Edward Feighan, one of 20 Americans on the mission last month, said the commander's assessment of the outcome of El Salvador's civil war was contrary to President Reagan's policy — a "policy single-minded in the pursuit of military victory."

Mr. Feighan, a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, told a press conference: "A Col. Waghestie, the head of the U.S. military group of trainers, speaking quite candidly, said he believed there could be no military victory in El Salvador."

A non-partisan group, the Washington-based commission on United States-Central American relations, sponsored the four-day trip for a contingent which included folk singer Mary Travers of

former head of the government Democratic Republican Party (DRP), who donated his \$36-million fortune to the state in 1980 to avoid prosecution for corruption.

The relaxation follows a visit to South Korea by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz in January. He told president Chun Washington was pleased with the political developments in South Korea and would welcome further liberalisations.

Political sources said this show of confidence by President Chun could lessen the chances of dissent as students prepared to return to universities after the winter holidays, and could improve the country's image abroad before next month's Non-Aligned Summit in New Delhi.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Odd beast softens Chinese man's heart

PEKING (R) — A hunter in southwest China claims to have captured a beast that was half-man and half-animal and then to have let it go after it begged for mercy, the official China Daily said Friday. The newspaper quoted Wu Shaohui, 40, as saying he caught the wild man in a trap laid on Yushan Mountain, Guizhou Province. He said the beast was more than one metre high and covered in hair, with a round head and a mouth like a monkey, the nose of a dog and the ears, eyes and fingers of a human being. The China Daily said a similar creature was seen on the same mountain 800 years ago by a local mandarin, according to ancient records. Another sighting was reported 40 years ago. There have been several reported sightings of wild men of various shapes and sizes in the official Chinese press.

Marx, Erin had 'loving relationship'

LOS ANGELES (R) — A psychologist said Erin Fleming, companion to Groucho Marx, was chivalrous and paranoid, but she had a loving relationship with the comedian. "My observation is that he (Marx) was not threatened by her," the psychologist, Dr. Milton Wexler, told the Santa Monica Superior Court in Los Angeles. "She was enormously helpful to him (Marx)," Dr. Wexler said when questioned by Miss Fleming's lawyer, David Sabish. "Without her, I believe he was lost."

China calls for destruction of rats

PEKING (R) — The Chinese government has called for a nationwide rat-killing drive during the forthcoming breeding season to end a plague that has been causing big crop losses. The official Economic Daily said that about 20 million hectares of crops had been seriously damaged by rats.

Smith told to get Rhodesian passport

HARARE (R) — White opposition Leader Ian Smith said Thursday the Zimbabwe government had turned down his request to have his passport back so he could travel to South Africa for medical treatment. He said the minister of home affairs, Herbert Ushewokunze, had written a letter telling him to approach Rhodesian authorities for a Rhodesian passport since he had stated abroad that he recognised Rhodesia and not Zimbabwe.

10 charged with murder in Bolivia

LA PAZ (R) — Ten people have been arrested and will go on trial on charges of killing Bolivian political leaders and a Spanish Jesuit priest, Interior Minister Mario Roncal said here. The minister told a press conference that the 10 were accused of the 1980 killings of Socialist chief Marcelo Quiroga Santa Cruz, eight leaders of the leftist revolutionary movement (MIR) and the priest, Father Luis Espinal. Earlier, a government commission accused a previous military ruler, Gen. Hugo Banzer, of being responsible for the clandestine burial of 14 people who went missing when he was in power. The bodies were discovered in a La Paz cemetery last week.

Murderer courts death deliberately

AMARILLO, Texas (R) — A condemned murderer screaming "shoot me" was shot in the chest when he slashed at a deputy U.S. marshal with a sharpened scimitar during a court appearance, court officials said. Charles Rumbough, 25, was listed in critical condition at Northwest Texas Hospital. Rumbough, who has waived his right to appeal against his execution, was testifying at a hearing sought by the American Civil Liberties Union and his family to determine his mental competence. Witnesses said Rumbough suddenly shouted "I've chosen my own form of execution," pulled the scimitar from his clothes and ran at a deputy marshal, shouting "shoot me." The Marshal did.

Reagan expects to convince Senate about Adelman

sident said in a statement.

By a vote of 9-8 Thursday, the Foreign Relations Committee recommended rejection of the president's nominee to become director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency (ACDA).

Seven Democrats and two Republicans voted against confirmation, saying 36-year-old Mr. Adelman lacked the experience or commitment to arms control needed for the job.

She told her followers, all poor and ill-educated villagers from the Punjab province, more than 1,600 kilometres from Karachi, that if they went by sea to shrine in Iraq, Iraq would win the war with its Gulf neighbour.

Police said women and teenagers were among the pilgrims who were trying to reach a shrine at Karbala, near Baghdad.

One of the survivors told police that 38 people gathered on a beach near Karachi Wednesday night after travelling with their boxes to the city by train from their hometown.

Up to 21 feared dead in pilgrimage from Karachi

KARACHI, Pakistan (R) — An 18-year-old girl "saint" sent as many as 21 of her followers on a voyage of death Thursday when they set sail in tin boxes on a bizarre religious pilgrimage to bring Iran victory in its war with Iraq.

Police said they had so far recovered 13 bodies from boxes bobbing in the sea off Karachi, rescued 13 people and were searching for eight more.

The girl was identified as Nasim Fatima, who claimed to have received messages from Prophet Mohammad two and a half years ago. Police said her body was among those recovered.

71 alleged sympathisers of Red Brigades on trial

ROME (R) — The trial of 71 intellectuals said by the prosecution to have inspired left-wing urban guerrilla violence in Italy began Thursday nearly four years after police first seized the alleged ring-leaders.

Sixteen of the accused are still at large and the rest had been granted provisional liberty.

A handful of defendants quietly entered the steel cages of Rome's assize court where, a month ago, 32 Red Brigades urban guerrillas

were jailed for life for the murder of former Prime Minister Aldo Moro.

The 71 accused in the latest trial belonged to the militant left-wing "workers' autonomy" movement founded by Prof. Toni Negri among students and sympathisers at Padua University where he taught political science.

They are all charged with forming an armed band and 12 face the more serious accusation of armed insurrection which carries a sentence of life imprisonment.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH

♦ KQ103

♦ AQ65

♦ 8

♦ AQ63

WEST EAST

♦ 5 ♦ 84

♦ J972 ♦ 1043

♦ J1965 ♦ AQJ9732

♦ 11354 ♦ 9

SOUTH

♦ AJ9762

♦ R 6

♦ 4

♦ J872

The bidding:

North East South West

1 ♦ 3 0 3 ♦ 4 0

4 NT Pass 5 0 Pass

6 ♦ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Five of ♦.

This hand from a team match is an interesting lesson in technique. Both Souths gave an impressive performance, each in his own way.

Because of a preempt from East and a raise by West, both North-South pairs reached a slam that could hardly be described as laydown. Both Wests led a diamond, and both Easts took the ace and made a neutral shift to a trump.

Our final declarer won in dummy and cashed another high trump. Next came three rounds of hearts, on which he sluffed a club. When East followed to all these tricks, declarer had an infernal count of the hand — East

3 Clergymen charged with murder in the Philippines

BACOLOD, Philippines (R) — Three Roman Catholic priests were charged Friday with the murder of a town mayor who was shot dead in the Philippines a year ago.

The prosecutor's office said charges filed by the provincial commander alleged that Australian Father Brian Gore and Irishman Father Niall O'Brien plotted the killing in an ambush led by Filipino Priest Father Vicente Dangan.

Kabangkalan Mayor Pablo Zola and four companions were shot last March 10, a few months

Spain to modernise army

MADRID (R) — The Spanish army will lose a quarter of its officers and more than a third of its men over the next five years under Socialist government plans announced Friday for a more flexible force.

Defence Minister Narcis Serra told a parliamentary commission of his plans for changes in army promotion, training, deployment and size, designed to bring the army into line with modern Western forces.

They are all charged with forming an armed band and 12 face the more serious accusation of armed insurrection which carries a sentence of life imprisonment.